IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1 - 3 (Cancelled).

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The winch assembly of claim 3, further comprises:~~ A winch assembly comprising:

a drum that carries a length of cable, the drum having an axis of rotation;

a driver coupled to the drum for rotating the drum to wind and unwind the cable;

a level winder disposed adjacent to the drum to guide the cable with respect to the drum, wherein the level winder is supported to move in an arc-shaped path,

a rotatable support;

a cable support frame connected to the rotatable support;

an actuator coupled to the rotatable support that pivots the cable support frame with respect to the drum to maintain the cable in a predetermined position relative to the drum; and

a biasing mechanism coupled to the cable support frame that maintains the cable support frame in a predetermined position relative to the rotatable support,

wherein the level winder includes a pair of pulleys, each pulley having an axis of rotation, and wherein the axis of rotation of each of the pulleys moves in an arc-shaped path with respect to the axis of rotation of the drum, and

wherein the pair of pulleys are carried by the cable support frame such that the pair of pulleys pivot with respect to the drum about the rotatable support.

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The winch assembly of claim 5,~~ A winch assembly comprising:

a drum that carries a length of cable, the drum having an axis of rotation;

a driver coupled to the drum for rotating the drum to wind and unwind the cable;

a level winder disposed adjacent to the drum to guide the cable with respect to the drum, wherein the level winder is supported to move in an arc-shaped path, a rotatable support; and

a cable support frame connected to the rotatable support,

wherein the level winder includes a pair of pulleys, each pulley having an axis of rotation, and wherein the axis of rotation of each of the pulleys moves in an arc-shaped path with respect to the axis of rotation of the drum,

wherein the pair of pulleys are carried by the cable support frame such that the pair of pulleys pivot with respect to the drum about the rotatable support,

wherein the level winder further includes a feeding mechanism pivotally supported by the cable support frame through which the cable is fed from the pulleys, and

wherein the feeding mechanism includes a pair of rollers and a pressure controller coupled to the rollers to control pressure between the rollers to control feeding of the cable.

7. (Original) The winch assembly of claim 6, wherein the feeding mechanism further includes a sensitivity controller coupled to the rollers to adjust the distance between the rollers.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~The winch assembly of claim 5,~~ A winch assembly comprising:

a drum that carries a length of cable, the drum having an axis of rotation;

a driver coupled to the drum for rotating the drum to wind and unwind the cable;

a level winder disposed adjacent to the drum to guide the cable with respect to the drum, wherein the level winder is supported to move in an arc-shaped path,

a rotatable support; and

a cable support frame connected to the rotatable support,

wherein the level winder includes a pair of pulleys, each pulley having an axis of rotation, and wherein the axis of rotation of each of the pulleys moves in an arc-shaped path with respect to the axis of rotation of the drum,

wherein the pair of pulleys are carried by the cable support frame such that the pair of pulleys pivot with respect to the drum about the rotatable support,

wherein the level winder further includes a feeding mechanism pivotally supported by the cable support frame through which the cable is fed from the pulleys, and

wherein the feeding mechanism includes a position actuator operatively connected to a proximity switch, wherein when the feeding mechanism pivots beyond a certain position the proximity switch activates movement of the level winder along the arc-shaped path.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The winch assembly of claim 5,~~ A winch assembly comprising:

a drum that carries a length of cable, the drum having an axis of rotation;

a driver coupled to the drum for rotating the drum to wind and unwind the cable;

a level winder disposed adjacent to the drum to guide the cable with respect to the drum, wherein the level winder is supported to move in an arc-shaped path,

a rotatable support; and

a cable support frame connected to the rotatable support,

wherein the level winder includes a pair of pulleys, each pulley having an axis of rotation, and wherein the axis of rotation of each of the pulleys moves in an arc-shaped path with respect to the axis of rotation of the drum,

wherein the pair of pulleys are carried by the cable support frame such that the pair of pulleys pivot with respect to the drum about the rotatable support,

wherein the level winder further includes a feeding mechanism pivotally supported by the cable support frame through which the cable is fed from the pulleys, and

wherein the feeding mechanism is operatively coupled to a proximity switch that activates an actuator to pivot the level winder.

Claims 10 - 11 (Cancelled).

12. (Currently Amended) ~~The winch assembly of claim 10, further comprises:~~

A winch assembly comprising:

a drum that carries a length of cable;

a driver coupled to the drum for rotating the drum about a first axis to wind and unwind the cable;

an actuator coupled to the rotatable support that pivots the cable support frame with respect to the drum to maintain the cable in a predetermined position relative to the drum; ~~and~~

a biasing mechanism coupled to the cable support frame that maintains the cable support frame in a predetermined position relative to the rotatable support; and

a level winder disposed adjacent to the drum to guide the cable with respect to the drum, wherein the level winder is supported to pivot about a second axis, the second axis being perpendicular to the first axis, wherein the level winder includes a rotatable support, a cable support frame connected to the rotatable support, and a pair of pulleys carried by the cable support frame, such that the pair of pulleys move in an arc-shaped path.

13. (Original) The winch assembly of claim 12, wherein the level winder further comprises a feeding mechanism pivotally supported by the cable support frame through which the cable is fed from the pulleys.

14. (Original) The winch assembly of claim 13, wherein the feeding mechanism includes a pair of rollers and a pressure controller coupled to the rollers to control pressure between the rollers to control feeding of the cable.

15. (Original) The winch assembly of claim 13, wherein the feeding mechanism includes a position actuator operatively connected to a proximity switch, wherein when the feeding mechanism pivots beyond a certain position the proximity switch activates movement of the level winder along an arc-shaped path.

Claims 16 - 17 (Cancelled).

18. (Currently Amended) ~~The vehicle of claim 17, further comprising:~~

A vehicle, comprising

a frame, an engine supported by the frame, and a drive mechanism operatively connected to the engine;

a winch assembly supported by the frame including a drum that carries a length of cable, a driver coupled to the drum for rotating the drum to wind and unwind the cable;

an actuator coupled to the rotatable support that pivots the cable support frame with respect to the drum to maintain the cable in a predetermined position relative to the drum; ~~and~~

a biasing mechanism coupled to the cable support frame that maintains the cable support frame in a predetermined position relative to the rotatable support, and

a level winder disposed adjacent to the drum to guide the cable with respect to the drum, wherein the level winder is supported to move in an arc-shaped path, wherein the level winder includes a rotatable support, a cable support frame connected to the rotatable support, and a pair of pulleys carried by the cable support frame, such that the pair of pulleys move in an arc-shaped path with respect to the drum.

19. (Currently Amended) The vehicle of claim [[17]] 18, wherein the level winder further comprises a feeding mechanism pivotally supported by the cable support frame through which cable is fed from one of the pulleys.

20. (Original) The vehicle of claim 19, wherein the feeding mechanism includes a pair of rollers and a pressure controller coupled to the rollers to control pressure between the rollers to control feeding of the cable.

21. (Original) The vehicle of claim 19, wherein the feeding mechanism includes a position actuator operatively connected to a proximity switch, wherein when the feeding mechanism pivots beyond a certain position the proximity switch activates movement of the level winder along the arc-shaped path.

22. (Original) The vehicle of claim 19, wherein the feeding mechanism is operatively coupled to a proximity switch that activates an actuator to pivot the level winder.